

The available options for DSL service is never likely to grow in the current climate, and will surely be headed down if deregulation comes. Any changes that would result in consolidation would be felt by consumers. Reduced competition is only a small part of the damage that would result. Service and innovation would suffer. We have already seen the DSL rollout to the older neighborhoods in California being driven by competition. It is too early to comprehend the effects of deregulation. DSL provider options to consumers are being reduced without any form of deregulation today. We must ask ourselves whether we want that pace of reduced options to accelerate dramatically and analyze how reduced options help the industry, business and consumers. The current reduction in options is sufficient to warrant a hands-off approach.